

This bill codifies the common law felony of accessory after the fact. The bill provides that, unless another penalty is provided by law, the penalty for the offense is the lesser of imprisonment not exceeding five years or a penalty not exceeding the maximum penalty provided by law for committing the crime. The bill also retains the existing statute abolishing benefit of clergy, but alters it to eliminate references to sentences for felonies that previously were or were not subject to benefit of clergy.

Senate Bill 620, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 610.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

House Bill No. 610

AN ACT concerning

Crimes - Accessory After the Fact - Benefit of Clergy

FOR the purpose of providing that persons convicted of being an accessory after the fact are guilty of a felony and on conviction are subject to certain penalties under certain circumstances; providing a certain exception; repealing certain provisions of law relating to penalties for certain felonies and benefit of clergy; making stylistic changes; providing that the Committee Notes contained in this Act are not law and may not be considered in a certain manner; and generally relating to penalties for accessory before the fact and benefit of clergy.

BY adding to

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

Section 2A to be under the new subheading "Accessory After the Fact"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1996 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

Section 626

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1996 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments